THE FACE TO FACE LEGAL CENTER (continued)

The volunteer law student program began in 2008; two of the first students to enter the program, Meryl Pedersen and Sarah Lichter, still volunteer in the center today as attorneys. Sarah explains that she returns to Face to Face to do pro bono work because, "Face to Face shows every attorney and every client that it is not just about the issues, Face to Face is about the people. That is the true definition of advocacy." Meryl sees it as a way to give back to those who helped her: "Face to Face is where I first started to practice law and learned how to be an attorney. To continue on in the capacity as an attorney has been a great joy... I am now able to help the people who helped me become a lawyer." Currently, ten of the pro bono attorneys on our roster began at Face to Face as law students.

Ms. Ludt's vision for the Legal Center is to be open more hours and accept more cases - The need already exists. If you are interested in volunteering at the Face to Face Legal Center please contact Ms. Ludt at vludt@facetofacegermantown.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Interested in volunteering?
Contact Patty McDonough, Volunteer Coordinator, at

patty@facetofacegermantown.org
or (215) 438-7939

WISH LIST
Your donations are greatly appreciated and allow us to continually meet the needs of our Germantown community. We couldn’t do it without you!

Our Current Wish List

Ground Coffee
5 lb. Bags of Sugar/ Sugar Packets
Toothbrushes and Toothpaste
Deodorant
Lotion
Plastic Grocery Bags
$10/$20/$25 Gift Cards to Walgreens, Acme, Bottom Dollar Food

Items may be dropped off at Face to Face Fridays through Tuesdays from 9AM to 3PM
Call 215-849-0179 for Additional Information

Thank You!

... And don’t forget our United Way Donor Number

12028

Newsletter Editor: Susan O’Hagan Marley
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PEOPLE @ FACE TO FACE

Jerome Hunter

Jerome Hunter is part of the fabric of Face to Face, an invaluable assistant to our chef; he was also once a client. Originally from Florida, Jerome moved to Philadelphia with his family in 1964. For years Jerome struggled with drug addiction. He completed many stays at rehab facilities and although he quit while in the programs, each time he returned to his old neighborhood and old friends he fell back into addiction. Jerome shares that his life as an addict was truly miserable. Finally, he decided he was sick and tired of being sick and tired. Four years ago he stopped into Face to Face for lunch. Over time, Jerome met new people and began to find the strength to quit his dependency on drugs; this time without a rehab program.

Jerome explains that he felt comfortable at Face to Face and began staying around after the meal to help with clean up. He got to know Josh our former chef and offered to help him by washing pots and pans. In January of 2013 he was hired to help in the kitchen. Jerome now works four days a week as a dish washer and assistant to Altenor, our new chef. According to Jerome, he and Altenor are an excellent team. Jerome often arrives early for work and stays late. He also works for local contractors installing garage doors, doing plumbing and remodeling whenever they have a job for him. He lives nearby in his own apartment.

Jerome is 61 years old and has been completely clean and sober for the last three years; which he says have been the best three years in a very long time. The Jerome of today is the true Jerome; healthy, content and making a difference in the lives of others. He credits the grace of God for his recovery. Jerome explains that he enjoys giving back to Face to Face for what it has given him; community, purpose and a new life. Jerome goes out of his way to say that he does not judge others who struggle with addiction, "there but for the Grace of God, go I" he says.

This Christmas he was able to give gifts to his grown children and his adored six year-old granddaughter Shanaya. According to Jerome, the look on Shanaya's face when he surprised her with presents was worth all the hard work and struggle that it has taken to achieve the new life that he is living.

THE FACE TO FACE LEGAL CENTER: ADVOCACY & MORE

Since 1991 the Face to Face Legal Center has fought to protect the human, civil and legal rights of low income and homeless individuals in the Germantown community. Whether it is standing up to an unscrupulous landlord, securing legal identification, or assisting with disability benefit applications, the volunteer attorneys and law students at the Face to Face Legal Center represent their indigent clients with the same professionalism and zeal provided to clients of the city's top firms. The center's director is Niki Ludt, Esq., a 1983 graduate of Temple University Law School. Ms. Ludt started as a volunteer in 1992 and in 2008 became the center's director. She manages the clinic and mentors the volunteer students who come from Drexel, Temple, Villanova and Widener law schools.

Legal Center Staff & Volunteers

Niki Ludt is wearing the black & white striped top; Meryl Pedersen is second row, far right
Sarah Lichter is front row, center

Clients are seen in a quiet, dignified, private office that reflects the importance of the services offered. The Legal Center is open Tuesdays from 10:00AM - 12:00PM and Saturdays from 12:00PM - 2:00PM. The hours coincide with our Art Program and Social Services on Tuesday and our Dining Room and Health Center on Saturday, making it very convenient for our clients. The Center is staffed by 20 pro bono attorneys and 32 volunteer law students. The law students do case intake, legal research, birth certificate procurement and lead educational workshops in matters such as tenant rights, the disability application process and utility benefit programs. Ms. Ludt explains that our clients are accustomed to being ignored and disregarded in society; our law students, however, are trained to be attentive to our clients' needs, to respectfully and actively listen to their concerns.